

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12 /064 W

----- 060169

R 091550Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7996

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0031

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, DM, US

SUBU: NEW PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN AMB TO US AND UN

REF COTONOU 13,

1. MUCH TO MY ASTONISHMENT, FORMER AMB TO US TIAMIOU ADJIBADE, WHO HAS NEVER BEFORE HAD THE COURTESY TO CALL ON ME DURING HIS VARIOUS CONSULTATIONS IN COTONOU, TELEPHONED FROM FORN-MINISTRY JAN 6 TO INQUIRE RE MY STATE OF HEALTH AND EXPLAIN THAT HE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO SEE ME. HOWEVER, HE WISHED INTRODUCE BY TELEPHONE HIS SUCCESSOR THOMAS BOYA. LATTER EXPRESSED HOPE TO MEET ME. I RECEIVED HIM AT CHANCERY AT ONCE AND VISAS WERE ISSUED WHILE WE EXCHANGED PLEASANTRIES. MY WIFE AND I WENT TO AIRPORT FOLLOWING DAY TO SEE HIM AND HIS FAMILY OFF.

2. PANAM DEPARTURE DELAYED 20 MINUTES BECAUSE BOYA FAILED SHOW UP UNTIL AFTER FLIGHT TIME AND THEN DALLIED TO SING REVOLUTIONARY SONGS WITH COMRADES AND CHARGE OFF TO MAKE TELEPHONE CALLS. APPARENTLY DISORIENTED BY UNFINISHED BUSINESS, HE FINALLY HAD TO BE COAXED AND LED TO THE AIRCRAFT.

3. COMMENT: OF ALL THE NEWLY-APPOINTED OR NEWLY-ASSIGNED "REVOLUTIONARY" PBR AMBASSADORS, BOY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS MADE A CALL ON HIS COUNTERPART. I SUSPECT THAT HE RENDERED ME THE "COURTESY" ONLY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN VISAS (US AND ZAIRE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRIES TO WHICH NEW PRB AMBASSADORS ARE ASSIGNED
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WHICH REQUIRE VISAS). ONCE HE HAD THE VISAS, HE TOOK OFF

FORTHWITH.

4. AFTER BOYA'S APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED EARLY NOV, I ASKED THE FORNMIN AND OTHER SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO CONVEY TO BOYA MY DESIRE TO GIVE A DINNER OR OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTION IN HIS HONOR. THERE WAS NO RESPONSE. HE ALSO IGNORED MY INVITATION TO A RECEPTION.

5. FROM BOYA'S CONVERSATION AND HIS CONDUCT DURING THE BRIEF PERIODS WHEN I OBSERVED HIM, I DREW IMPRESSION HE IS NERVOUS, RESTLESS, ERRATIC, DISORGANIZED AND IMPRACTICAL.

6. DEPT AND USUN SHOULD NOTE THAT BOYA, LIKE PRB'S OTHER NEW "REVOLUTIONARY" AMBS, HAS BEEN SELECTED ON GROUNDS OF IDEOLOGICAL SOUNDNESS AND LOYALTY TO THE KEREKOU'S MARXIST REGIME. THEY HAVE ALL GONE THROUGH SPECIAL IDEOLOGICAL/MILITARY TRAINING COURSE (EHUZU'S FRONT PAGE RECENTLY FEATURED A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GROUP IN FIDEL CASTRO COMBAT FITIGUES, UNDER THE CAPTION, " FOR REVOLUTIONARY DAHOMEY, A NEW TYPE OF AMB"). OUR FILES SHOW THAT BOYA HAS LONG RECORD AS AGITATOR, PROPAGANDIST OF MAOISM AND PARTICIPATION IN PRO-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS. HE RETURNED ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO FROM EAST GERMANY, WHERE HE HEADED A BENIN DEL VISITING THE GDR COMMUNIST PARTY. WE SUSPECT THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT TO FOOL AROUND WITH PROTOCOL AND NICETIES, BUT TO BE TOUGH WITH USG AT UN AND ELSEWHERE AND POSSIBLY ALSO TO MAKE CONTACT WITH GROUPS INCLUDING PERHAPS FOREIGN STUDENT GROUPS, CRITICAL OF USG. (FRENCH AMB HAS TIPPED US OFF THAT ACCORDING TO THEIR INFO THE NEW PRB AMB TO FRANCE HAS ORDERS TO SEEK OUT AND WORK WITH EXTREMISTS AND THEY BELIEVE OTHER PRB AMBS ARE SIMILARLY INSTRUCTED). END COMMENT.
ENGLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COTONO00031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0684
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760172/aaaacmhr.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COTONOU 13
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : NEW PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN AMB TO US AND UN
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, DM, US, (ADJIBADE, TIAMIU), (BOYA, THOMAS)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006